



# THE REGISTERED FORESTER

Summer 2022

## Ray's Ramblings

RAY METZLER, CERTIFIED WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST

*Threatened and Endangered Species Specialist, Alabama Forestry Commission*

Thanks to Lea Anna and the Alabama State Board of Registration for Foresters for allowing me an opportunity to contribute to this newsletter. Outreach is an important part of my job duties with the Alabama Forestry Commission and this newsletter presents a great opportunity to engage with a group of professionals that can (and does) positively impact Alabama's forest resources.

### Alabama's Biodiversity

Alabama is the 5th most biodiverse state in the country but ranks 1st in aquatic biodiversity. Our species richness is a result of Alabama's geological history, climate and vast water resources. Along with tremendous diversity, we also have 121 animal and 23 plant species that receive protection under the Endangered Species Act. More than 75% of these species are snails, mussels, fish or other aquatics. Only California and Hawaii have more animals protected by the Endangered Species Act.

#### Number of Alabama species on the Endangered Species list by taxa:

Birds.....	5	Plants.....	23
Insects.....	1	Reptiles.....	10
Mammals.....	6	Mussels,	
Amphibians.....	3	Snails, Clams,	
Fish.....	17	Crustaceans.....	79

Alabama's forestry community works cooperatively with many agencies and organizations to adhere to environmental rules and regulations regarding the many facets of the forest industry. A great deal of training and education is conducted each year to have a knowledgeable, well-informed professional staff within the forestry community.

Compliance with Alabama's Best Management Practices for Forestry is the primary avenue used by the forest industry to ensure aquatic species and habitats are not negatively impacted by forestry activities. Terrestrial species' listings can all have different rules and could potentially be more impactful to the forest industry depending on the species and any specific rules put in place as a result of the listing.

Staying informed about species listings is important and is quite beneficial to your career.

### Bald Eagles and the Endangered Species Act



I receive at least one phone call per year from a forester or landowner with questions about harvesting timber in and around a bald eagle nest. Bald eagles were removed from the list of threatened and endangered species in August 2007 but still receive protection under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act. Both laws prohibit killing, selling or otherwise harming eagles, their nests, or eggs.

Harvesting timber, skidding, and road-building activities on property where an eagle nest is located have several restrictions based on the timing and proximity to a nest. Bald eagle nests are very large, heavy structures that can cause a tree to be more subject to wind throw if trees are removed from the surrounding canopy. The following are some highlights of protections provided by the Act. Specifics can be obtained by googling "National Bald Eagle Management Guidelines."

- Avoid clear cutting or removal of overstory trees within

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### Alabama State Board of Registration for Foresters

*513 Madison Avenue  
Montgomery, Alabama 36130-4500  
Ph. (334) 240-9301  
LeaAnna.Meadows@asbrf.alabama.gov  
www.asbrf.alabama.gov*

### Hours of Operation

**Monday – Friday  
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

*Due to building security,  
please call for an appointment.*

## 2023 License Renewals



All registered forester licenses are due to expire on September 30, 2022, unless renewed by that time. Renewal notices for the 2023 renewal period will be mailed by the Board's office on or before July 1, 2022. The renewal fee is \$130.00 for all licensees. Those who renew their licenses between October 1 and December 31 must pay \$230.00 (renewal fee + \$100.00 late fee). The online renewal application and printable form will be made available at <http://asbrf.alabama.gov/renewalform.htm> beginning July 1. If you do not have access to the Internet, please call the Board's office at (334) 240-9301 to request a copy of the renewal form.

**Important: (Please do not attempt to renew any license prior to July 1.)**

**If renewing online, you will have the opportunity to print your RF pocket card.**

Those whose licenses have expired for non-renewal are prohibited from identifying themselves as registered foresters and practicing professional forestry. The Board will revoke the license of any licensee who fails to renew annually by December 31.

### Board Fees for 2023

Application Fee	\$60.00
Reinstatement Application Fee (Paid in addition to the applicable renewal fee)	\$150.00
Reciprocity Application Fees (Initial Application)	Same as charged for Alabama Applicants in the reciprocal state
Re-Examination Fee	\$100.00
Renewal Fees	
All Licensees	\$130.00
Late Penalty (Paid in addition to the applicable renewal fee)	\$100.00
License Replacement Fee (Certificate)	\$50.00
Printed Roster	\$10.00
Registered Forester Window Decal (Auto)	\$1.00
Registered Forester Cap	\$18 (+S/H)
Registered Forester Cap W/RF NO.	\$23 (+S/H)
Returned Check Fee	\$30.00

**Registered Foresters caps are available to purchase. There will be an additional \$5.00 charge for adding initials and RF number**

## Ray's Ramblings CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

practices designed to conserve or enhance habitat, including prescribed burning close to the nest tree, should be undertaken outside the breeding season. Precautions such as raking leaves and woody debris from around the nest tree should be taken to prevent crown fire or fire climbing the nest tree. **Appropriate Federal and state biologists should be consulted before any prescribed burning is conducted during the breeding season.**

### Gopher Tortoises in Alabama

The gopher tortoise is currently listed as a threatened species west of the Mobile River and is being considered for listing as threatened or endangered in the remainder of its range including Alabama, Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina. **A final ruling from the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service is expected in September 2022.** Many forestry and natural resource related companies, associations, agencies and organizations have cooperated to gather gopher tortoise population information throughout its range in Alabama to preclude the need to list it as a threatened or endangered species. A great deal of effort has been made by the forest industry and private landowners to protect burrows during processes involving harvesting, site preparation, and refor-



estation. I have personally witnessed where foresters have flagged and marked tortoise burrows for loggers to "avoid the burrow" and minimize the risk of burrows collapsing. Those efforts are greatly appreciated!

Maintaining or increasing populations of gopher tortoises in Alabama is an important step to ensure they are not listed as threatened or endangered. Tortoises are a long-lived species with a low reproductive rate. Population growth takes a long time – even in good habitat.

Gopher tortoise survey crews have recently documented instances where individuals involved in; 1) replanting of pine seedlings, and 2) raking of longleaf pine straw have apparently purposefully collapsed or placed debris in the mouth of 15-20 burrows at two sites. Although this isn't a common occurrence, even rare instances of this type of incident have the potential to limit population growth and



*One of 10 or more collapsed tortoise burrows found by survey crew members in March, 2022. Several burrows were able to be successfully excavated and an actual live tortoise was found in one of them.*

resiliency which could potentially influence the current or future listing status of gopher tortoises. Your cooperation and assistance in sharing the need to "protect the burrow" with employees and contract workers under your supervision and guidance would be greatly appreciated. I suspect these two instances resulted from contract workers fear of potentially encountering an eastern diamondback rattlesnake while raking pine straw or planting trees. The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources has an excellent publication regarding tortoise management practices available at [outdooralabama.com/gopher-tortoise-project](http://outdooralabama.com/gopher-tortoise-project).

### The Data Gathering Conundrum

Whether to list a species or not is a determination the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service must make based on the best scientific and commercial data available to them at the time of the decision. The process of gathering current data is very important to the Service when making a decision. Since 93% of Alabama's forestland is in private ownership, access to and/or data gathered in a scientific manner from

these lands is critical to making an informed decision. This is where the conflict arises for many private landowners. The dilemma is whether to cooperate with the Service in gathering data on the distribution and status of a species that may potentially be listed as threatened or endangered in the future.

From a biologist's perspective, I have always argued that participating in the process by gathering data is much better than ignoring a situation and having a species listed. The additional data could be analyzed and may allow the Service to obtain a "not warranted for listing" finding. Foresters have a network of private landowners whom they work with and can positively impact the listing process by encouraging them to engage in the process. The Alabama Forestry Association and the American Forest Foundation,

organizations representing the forest industry and forest landowners, have both played a role in engaging private landowners to collect information regarding gopher tortoise populations.

**Summary**

From the mountains of Jackson County to the sandy beaches of Baldwin and Mobile counties, Alabama is a highly diverse and ecologically significant landscape. I appreciate your efforts as a Registered

Forester to ensure Alabama's 23 million forested acres are managed in a sound, sustainable manner that benefits our citizens, wildlife and waterways. I encourage you to stay informed and engage in the processes that impact our state's resources.

## Governor Ivey Appoints New Board Member:

**O**n January 6, 2022, Governor Kay Ivey appointed Ashley Parkman Smith to the State Board of Registration for Foresters. Each year, Alabama's Governor appoints one new member to the State Board as one member rotates off the Board after serving a six-year term. The State Board of Registration for Foresters consists of five members, all of whom must be Alabama Registered Foresters. After the first year of service, Board members serve as different committee leads based on years of service. Ashley's term expires January 2027.

Ashley graduated in 1995 from Auburn University with a Bachelor of Science in Forest Operations. As a student, she interned with Weyerhaeuser and Mead Coated Board. After graduation, she worked with Mead (now WestRock) in fiber supply and forestry education/outreach. Later she worked with urban tree non-profit Trees Columbus in Columbus, Georgia, as assistant director. Ashley now works with the Alabama Forestry Association as the education program director. She coordinates the Alabama SFI State Implementation Committee, manages the Alabama Professional Logging Manager program, and serves as the Alabama Project Learning Tree coordinator. "I look forward to serving on the State Board of Registration for Foresters," says Ashley. "When I first became a Registered Forester more than twenty years ago, I felt so proud and pleased to have earned that designation. Becoming a Registered Forester and maintaining the required standard proves key to the integrity of our profession."



Ashley and her husband Ben Smith (also a forester) reside in East Alabama. Their son and daughter live in Auburn. They attend St. Luke United Methodist Church in Columbus and First United Methodist Church in Port St. Joe. Ashley's favorite activities include hiking, fishing, and spending time outdoors.

## New Registered Foresters

**Bolton, William Blake** 2386  
*Timber Buyer*  
 Deloney & Gandy Timber  
 57 Sparrow LN.  
 Sylacauga, AL 35151  
 Phone: 256-267-7901  
 Email: Blake@deloneygandytimber.com

**Killough, Caleb Douglas** 2387  
*Forester*  
 Alabama Forestry Commission  
 1696 US Hwy 29 N  
 Auburn, AL 36830  
 Phone: 334-740-6615  
 Email: caleb.killough@forestry.alabama.gov

**McMullen, Thomas Cooper Jr** 2388  
*Forester/Timber Buyer*  
 J.E. Estes Wood Co.  
 240 N Mount Pleasant Ave.  
 Monroeville, AL 36460  
 Phone: 251-575-2444  
 Email: tcm0023@auburn.edu

**Steele, William Madison Jr** 2389  
*Forester*  
 Cooper Marine and TimberlandsCorp  
 374 Radcliff RD  
 Creola, AL 36525  
 Phone: 251-442-0980  
 Email: william.steele@coopertsmith.com

**Stone, Ian Joseph** 2390  
*Founder & CEO*  
 W. FL Consulting & Mgt. Group  
 5930 Herlong Dr.  
 Milton, FL 32570  
 Phone: 850-564-1058  
 Email: ian.j.stone@gmail.com

**Clayton, Jeff Roman IV** 2391  
*Harvest MGR.*  
 Weyerhaeuser  
 406 Cole Rd  
 Hattiesburg, MS 39402  
 Phone: 251-442-4860  
 Email: jeffromanc@gmail.com  
 2386

**Boone, Zachary Thomas** 2392  
*Timber Dealer*  
 Conecuh Timber Inc.  
 1040 Main St.  
 Beatrice, AL 36425  
 Phone: 251-862-9328  
 Email: zach@conecuhtimber.com

**Pittman, Jesse David** 2393  
*Procurement Foresters/Land Mgr.*  
 Oakcrest Lumber, Inc  
 PO Box 458  
 Beuna Vista, GA 31803  
 Phone: 229-649-9328  
 Email: mrauforester@yahoo.com

**Nichols, Andrew Mark** 2394  
*County Forester*  
 Alabama Forestry Commission  
 6650 Old Hwy. 31 N.  
 Gardendale, AL 35071  
 Phone: 256-626-0150  
 Email: andrew.nichols@forestry.alabama.gov

**Grant, David Reid** 2395  
*Resource Forester*  
 Resource Mgt. Service, LLC  
 5605 Woodbine Rd  
 Pace, FL 32571  
 Phone: 850-712-0818  
 Email: RGrant@resourcemgt.com

**Segroves, Jamie Scott** 2396  
*Forester*  
 Alabama Forestry Commission  
 50 County Road 1418  
 Vinemont, AL 35179  
 Phone: 334-468-9385  
 Email: Jamie.Segroves@foresty.alabama.gov

**Logan, Clifford Anthony III** 2397  
*Forester*  
 Cliff A. Logan & Associates, Inc  
 PO Box 529  
 Eutaw, AL 35462  
 Phone: 205-372-9321  
 Email: cal@loganforestry.com

**Kendrick, Thomas Lacy** 2398  
*Forester*  
 ValleyGrand, AL 36703  
 Phone: 334-412-9295  
 Email: thomas.kendrick213@gmail.com

## New Reciprocity Foresters

**Singleton, Chance Evans** GA3064  
*Field Supervisor*  
 F&W Forestry  
 1310 W. Oakridge Dr.  
 Albany, GA 31707  
 Phone: 229-883-0505  
 Email: csingleton@fwforestry.com

**McElroy, Bryan Michael** MS2322  
*Owner*  
 McElroy Forestry  
 1109 CR 100  
 New Albany, MS 38652  
 Phone: 662-668-0688  
 Email: McElroyForestry@gmail.com

**Patterson, Haden Brooks** MS2811  
*Buchanan Lumber Co.*  
 PO Box 424  
 Aliceville, AL 35442  
 Phone: 662-803-4032  
 Email: hadenpatterson55@gmail.com

## Registered Forester Eligible

If you have taken and passed the Registered Forester's Exam as a student, you are eligible to make application to become licensed. Please call or email Lea Anna Meadows: 334 240-9301 LeaAnna.Meadows@asbrf.alabama.gov for more information or assistance.

Alabama Board of Registration for Foresters  
513 Madison Avenue  
Montgomery, AL 36130-4500

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## Process for Board Member Nominations

Each year three qualified nominees that agree to serve on the Alabama State Board of Registration for Foresters (ASBRF) are presented to the Governor. The Governor reviews and appoints one of the candidates to serve a five-year term on the Board.

The traditional source of Board nominee candidates came from the Alabama Division of the Society of American Foresters (Alabama SAF). The Society of American Foresters (SAF) was established in 1900 as the national society advancing forestry and the profession. SAF developed professional standards and ethical constructs for foresters to provide credibility for forestry concepts and practices. Alabama laws required that the AL SAF provide the 3 Board member candidates from its membership.

AL SAF is a logical professional source of Board appointees, but membership and participation has declined over recent years. Providing a diversity of nominee candidates annually has become more constrained with some uncertainty for future candidate prospects. As such, two new laws were recently passed. First, a Board member nominee candidate no longer is required to be an AL SAF member. Second, in addition to AL SAF submitting nominee candidates for the Board, other forestry organizations meeting certain criteria may nominate candidates.

The criteria for a forestry organization to nominate candidates includes forestry organizations that have Alabama Registered Foresters, that promote the practice of professional forestry and support Registered Foresters as qualified practitioners under the laws of Alabama. Alabama Registered Foresters are considered a forestry organization meeting the criteria, allowing any Registered forester to nominate a qualified candidate nominee.

Since there may be more than three nominee candidates, an independent nomination selection committee will review and select the three nominees to send to the Governor.

Candidates must agree to be submitted to the Nomination Selection Committee for consideration as a potential nominee (one of three) that may be submitted to the Governor for selection and appointment as a new Board Member. The Nominees and Candidates not selected by the Governor will remain as nominee candidates available to be submitted to the Governor should an unexpected Board Member vacancy occur during a normal member term.

Candidates should understand that Board Members have certain responsibilities and duties. Candidates should seek to

understand what their commitments will be as a ASBRF Board Member. Some, but not all, of the requirements of a Board Member include taking an oath of office to uphold and defend the laws and constitution of the State of Alabama, submit personal and family financial information in compliance with the Alabama Ethics Commission, attend quarterly scheduled Board Meetings in Montgomery, attend legislative meetings as requested, proctor and administer testing, review and approve licensing of applicants, continuing education approval, address violations, promulgate rules and regulations, oversee board finance and administration, facilitate nomination process of new Board Members and other board business as needed.

Candidate nominee qualifications include being a US Citizen, having a residence in Alabama, being an Alabama Registered Forester, and having been engaged in the practice of professional forestry for at least 10 years. Candidates will need to provide some personal and practice diversity information for the selection committee to consider. A letter of introduction by the candidate explaining his or her desire to serve on the Board along with a biography will need to be provided at the time of submittal of a nominee candidate. As an additional option, the person and/or organization may also submit a letter of recommendation for the nominee candidate.

The Board Member Nomination Candidate Form is located via the web link: <https://asbrf.alabama.gov/pdfs/2021/BoardMemberCandidateFormFillable.pdf>

Or if on the Home page of the ASBRF website, select forms in header section, and other forms in drop down box and then select Board Member Nomination Form from the list of forms.

The form is a fillable pdf document that can be filled out, saved, and printed as needed for a nomination candidate. The form along with the candidate's letter and biography can be scanned and returned to the Board office by email to Lea Anna Meadows: [LeaAnna.Meadows@asbrf.alabama.gov](mailto:LeaAnna.Meadows@asbrf.alabama.gov) or by US Mail: Alabama State Board of Registration for Foresters, PO Box 304500, Montgomery, AL 36130-4500. If you need Lea Anna to send you a hard copy, please call her at 334 240-9301 or mail her at the address above.

Nomination of Board member candidates are due August 31, 2022. Please advise Lea Anna by phone if you send candidate documents by US Mail to ensure that the documents are received.